

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 84-93 and 95 are pending.

The specification has been objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, applicants have amended the specification to address the concerns of the Examiner outlined in the office action. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added and therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn.

Claims 87, 88, 89, 92 and 93 are objected to because of some informalities. Accordingly, applicant has amended the claims in order to address the concerns of the Examiner. It is respectfully requested the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 84-93 and 95 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being rejected by Carl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,381,685). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended the claims to make it clear that the retractable inhibiting member is retractable relative to the slot engagement member. It is respectfully submitted that Carl et al. does not disclose or even suggest that the inhibiting member be retractable relative to the slot engagement member. Indeed, it is evident from Carl et al. that inhibiting member 60 is fixedly coupled to the housing of the locking device and thus, is not retractable.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Carl et al. do not anticipate claims 84-93 and 95 and therefore, these claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above.

Appl. No. 09/441,142
Amdt. dated August 12, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 14, 2003

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin T. LeMond
Reg. No. 35,933

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
KTL:lo
60016460 v1